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Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

115

12 July 1967

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Information as of 1600
12 July 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

US infantry forces clashed with North Vietnamese troops in the Ia Drang Valley on 12 July. In North Vietnam, a shortage of rainfall has occurred just as the planting of the important fall crop is beginning.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

US infantry forces clashed with North Vietnamese troops in the Ia Drang Valley on 12 July (Para. 1). US Navy ships reported successful bombardments of enemy artillery positions in the DMZ (Para. 2). Several sharp engagements were reported in the Mekong Delta (Para 3). Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics. (Para 4).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

Premier Ky's embryonic political "front" has reportedly decided to support the Thieu-Ky ticket (Para. 1). The Provisional National Assembly approved the lower house electoral laws on 11 July (Para. 2).

III. North Vietnamese Military Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments:

Peking's extensive coverage of the death of North Vietnamese politburo member Nguyen Chi Thanh is in marked contrast to Moscow's limited treatment (Paras. 1-2). Tass has announced that Moscow has agreed to train some 6,000 DRV youths in the period 1967-69 (Paras. 3-4).

VI. Other Major Aspects:

A shortage of rainfall has occurred in North Vietnam just as the planting of the important fall crop is beginning (Paras. 1-3).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics from 1963

Through 2-8 July 1967

- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. A battle just north of the Ia Drang Valley, in the western highlands, has cost three companies from the US 4th Infantry Division 35 killed and 26 wounded, according to press reports.

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2. No new ground contact with the enemy in the northern I Corps area has been reported in the past 48 hours. The US Navy cruiser Boston and the destroyer Morton reported successful bombardments of North Vietnamese artillery positions in the Demilitarized Zone on 11 July.

3. Several sharp enemy engagements in the Mekong Delta were reported on 10-12 July. The combined US Navy-Army "Mobile Riverine Force"--Operation CORONADO--reported killing 20 Communist soldiers while suffering 20 wounded in two contacts some 35 miles southwest of Saigon. Farther south in Phong Dinh Province, five South Vietnamese Regional Force companies and one regular South Vietnamese Army company reported killing 47 of the enemy in a running eight-hour battle. Another 50 Communists were reported killed near My Tho, Dinh Tuong Province, by shelling from a US Army eight-inch howitzer battalion.

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Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

4. The week of 2 - 8 July compared with the week of 25 June - 1 July:

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I. Viet Cong Incidents

	<u>25 June - 1 July</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>
Attacks.....	33	44
Battalion or larger.....	0	1
Small Unit.....	33	43
Harassment	240	362
Terrorism	37	12
Sabotage	23	45
Propaganda	16	14
Antiaircraft	<u>239</u>	<u>201</u>
TOTAL INCIDENTS	588	678

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>25 Jun - 1 Jul</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>25 Jun - 1 Jul</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>
Killed	1,331	2,114	144	144
Wounded	-----	-----	466	383
Missing/ Captured	-----	-----	28	29
TOTALS	<u>1,331</u>	<u>2,114</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>556</u>

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>25 Jun - 1 Jul</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>25 Jun - 1 Jul</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>
Killed	161	282	15	23
Wounded	1,529	1,170	5	25
Missing/ Captured	-----	-----	--	--
TOTALS	<u>1,690</u>	<u>1,452</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>48</u>

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>25 Jun - 1 Jul</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>25 Jun - 1 July</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>
Individual	482	Not	108	135
Crew-Served	<u>46</u>	Reported	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	528		108	136

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III. NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Peking's coverage of the death of North Vietnamese politburo member Nguyen Chi Thanh has been extensive and even more effusive than Hanoi's. In marked contrast to a lack of commentary from Moscow, Peking has kept up a steady stream of eulogy since 8 July. Although most of this material is attributed to Hanoi sources--Nhan Dan and Quan Doi Nhan Dan editorials, formal Hanoi obituaries, and Le Duc Tho's funeral oration--on at least one occasion Peking elaborated on Hanoi's original language in an effort to enhance Nguyen Chi Thanh's stature. In rebroadcasting Le Duc Tho's eulogy Peking said that in 1965, Thanh had been "transferred to the post of leading the army"--an overstatement which slights the position of Vo Nguyen Giap as commander in chief of the army. Le Duc Tho's language as broadcast by Hanoi had said that Thanh had been "called back to serve the armed forces and from that time had contributed greatly to the armed forces leadership work."

2. This kind of Chinese propaganda treatment strongly reinforces other evidence that Thanh was one of Peking's favorites in the North Vietnamese politburo, and indicates their concern that his death might significantly diminish the influence of the militant wing of the Lao Dong party. Moscow, on the other hand, has to date published only a brief four-line notice of Thanh's death in Pravda and Izvestia. Although the Hanoi domestic radio has published Soviet party condolences, Moscow has not publicized the condolence message. Like Peking, Moscow will also be interested in Thanh's replacement. The USSR, however, undoubtedly hopes that Thanh's death will significantly diminish the influence of the militant wing of the Lao Dong party.

Soviet Training of DRV Students

3. The Soviet news agency Tass announced on 10 July that an agreement had been signed to educate and train 6,000 Vietnamese youths in Soviet professional and technical schools, enterprises, and on

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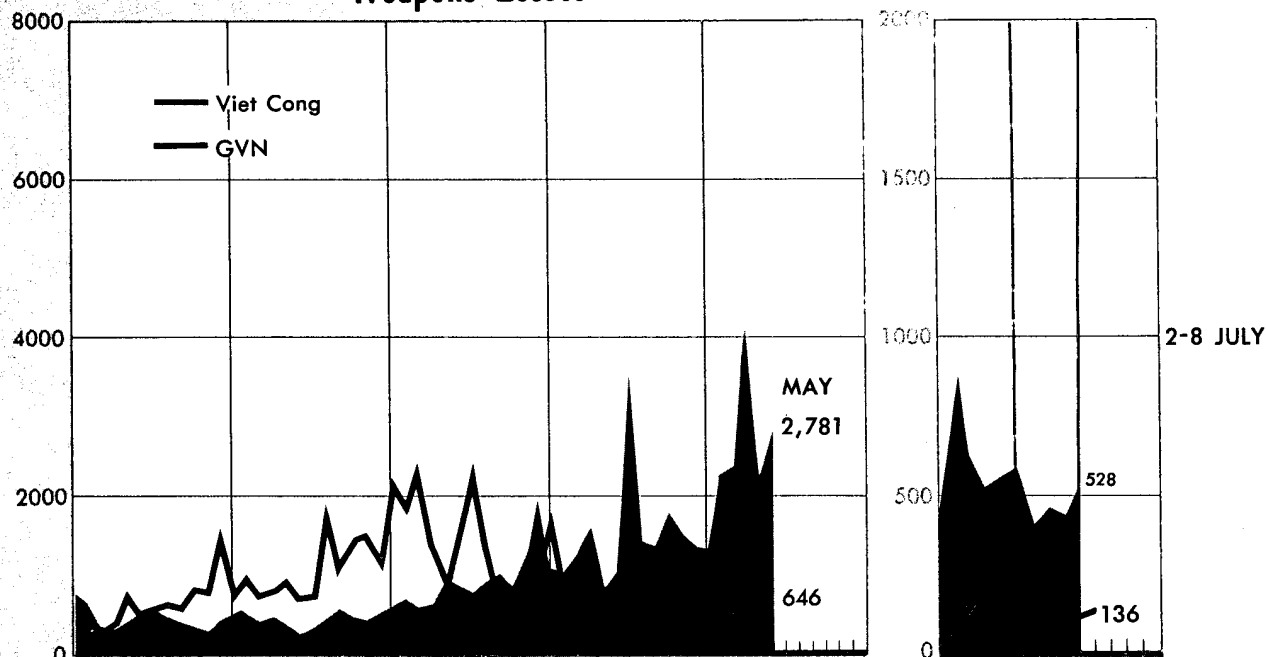
construction sites in 1967-69. The Tass item is apparently the formal announcement of the agreement which Pravda had mentioned on 30 April.

4. This agreement is one of several announced by the Soviet Union and East European countries in the past six to eight months to train increased numbers of Vietnamese students and workers over the next several years. Between 5,000 and 10,000 North Vietnamese are currently being trained in Communist countries. About half of these are in the USSR.

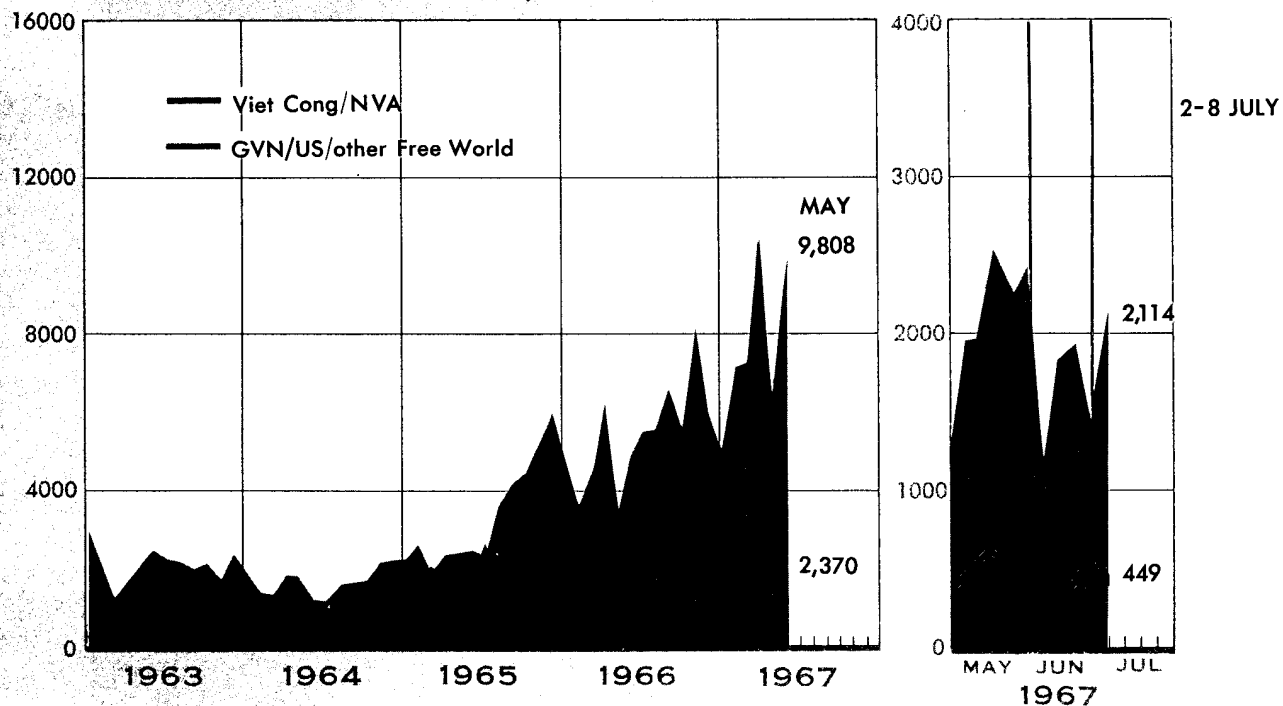
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Weapons Losses

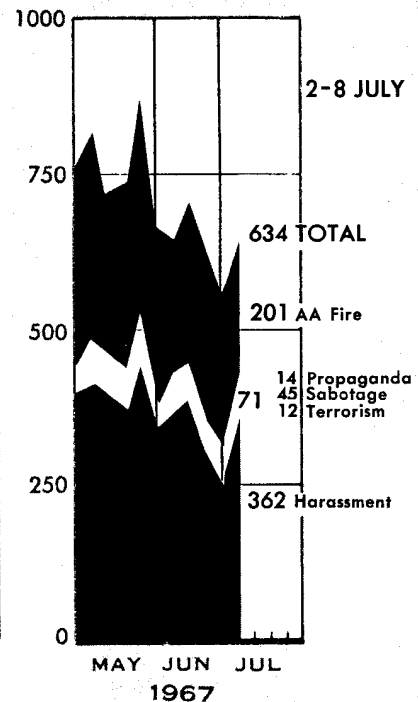
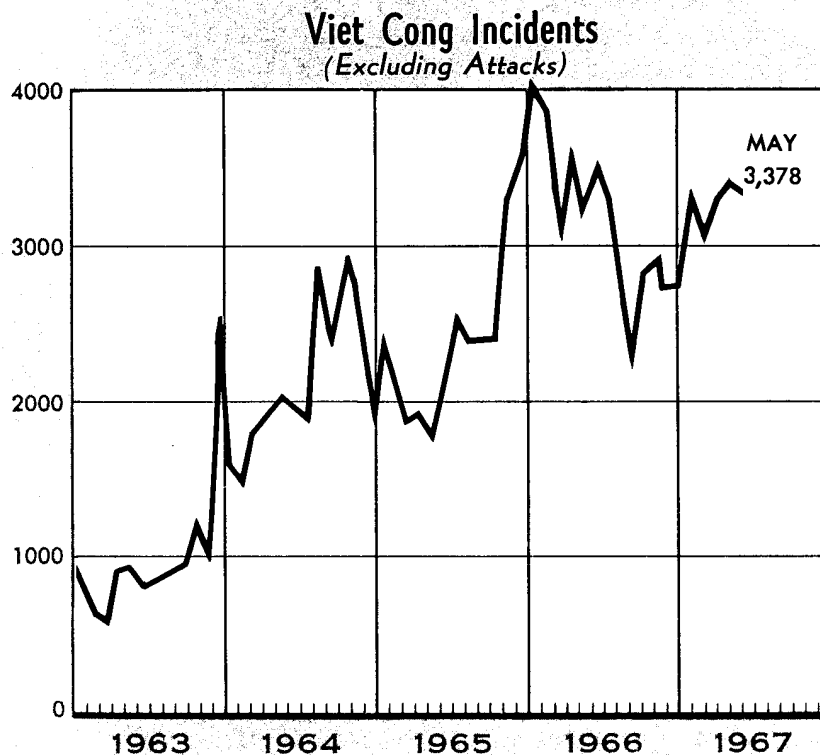
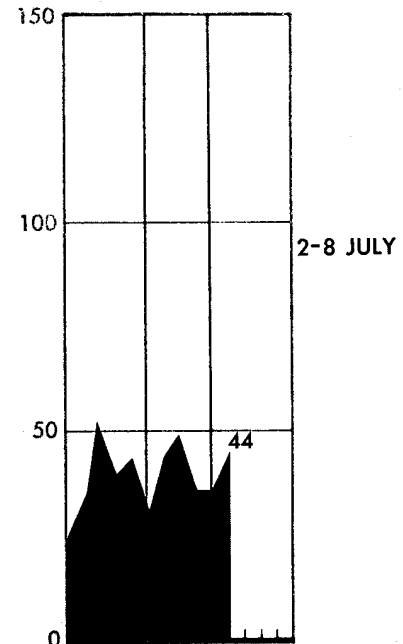
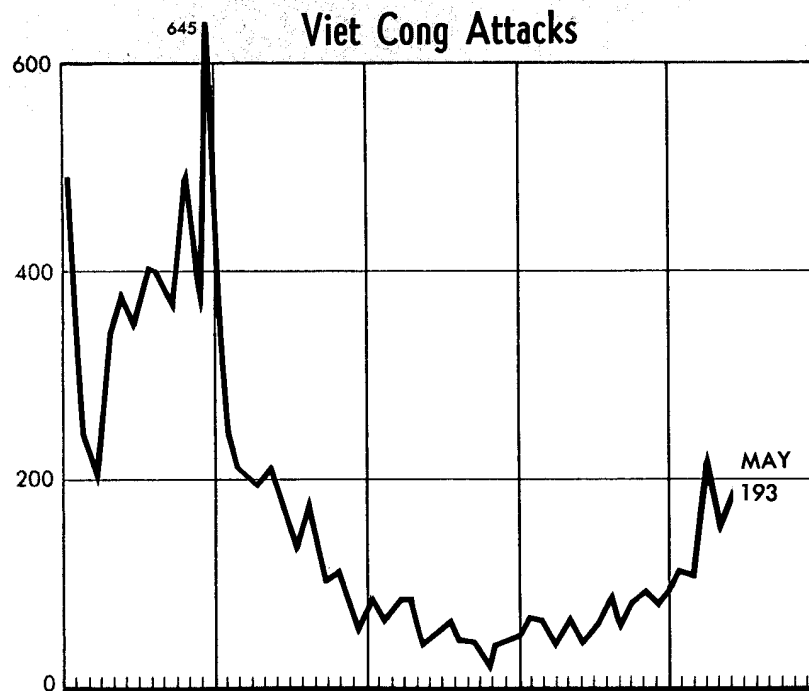


Personnel Losses (Killed only)*



US Casualties to Date: Killed 11,816 Wounded 71,040 Captured 185 Missing 489

*Due to a change in the reporting of personnel losses, beginning 12 February 1967, the weekly and monthly figure will represent only personnel killed.



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